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COUNTRY: Madagascar CIA [REDACTED]  
SUBJECT: Description of Fort Dauphin DATE [REDACTED]  
PLACE ACQ: [REDACTED] 25X1A6a SUPPLE TO [REDACTED]  
DATE ACQ: [REDACTED] RESPONSIVE TO Guide 159  
DATE OF INFO: Dec 53 & Earlier.

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Source or Clarifying Statement:

[REDACTED]

#### POPULATION, WEATHER

1. The city of Fort Dauphin is the district seat of Fort Dauphin District in Tulear Province, which is the southern-most province of Madagascar. As of 1953, the city had an estimated population of 4500, of which 400 inhabitants were foreigners. These foreigners came from France, Switzerland, China and India, with a scattering of German and US citizens, who are associated with foreign missions.
2. The average temperature in the Fort Dauphin district is about 80°. During the time I have lived there, I have experienced weather as low as 45° and as high as 100°. Records disclose that this area has never been visited by freezing temperatures.
3. From late December until mid-March, Madagascar has its rainy weason, with the heaviest precipitation occurring along the east coast, which is hemmed in by a range of mountains, running from north to south along the entire east coast of the island. Highway travel during the rainy season in the province of Tulear is impossible at times because of the flooded condition of the rivers.

#### TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

4. Fort Dauphin is Air France Airlines' southeastern Madagascar terminal. Two flights arrive and leave the city daily, one flight going to and from Tananarive, and the other flight going along the east coast terminating at Diego Suarez. Two-motor planes of the Douglas DC-3 type are used on these flights. The airport is located three and one-half miles west of the city. The runways are made of sod and packed dirt and are not sufficient to handle four-motor or heavier planes. The airport has a small terminal station, but has no facilities for the repair and maintenance of aircraft.

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5. Two main highways join at Fort Dauphin: One runs north to Manantenina, is 15 to 18 feet wide (travel part) and is made of gravel. It crosses five good-sized rivers, which must be ferried at all times. The other highway runs west to Ambovombe, where it connects with highways running north and west. This highway is being improved and repaired. It is "black-top" from Fort Dauphin to the Fanjahira River, a distance of about 40 miles; over the Fanjahira River, a bridge is being constructed, which is expected to be completed by the fall of 1954. This is the first bridge in the Tulear Province to be constructed. As of December 1953, two concrete abutments had been constructed, as well as the center pier, which is of concrete. Steel will be used in spanning of the river.
6. Regularly scheduled bus and truck service is in operation to all towns and cities in Madagascar from Fort Dauphin.
7. Small ships from other coastal cities are able to dock at Fort Dauphin. A scheduled ship service is operated between Tulear and Fort Dauphin. All ocean-going ships are required to anchor one-half to one mile off shore, depending upon the tonnage of the ship; and then lighters are used to carry the cargo to and from the city dock. There are no other docks or facilities of any sort for repairing of ships at Fort Dauphin.
8. Fort Dauphin has telephone and telegraph service, which is owned and operated by the Colonial Government. Telegraph service is fairly efficient; but telephone service is poor, because there are no repeater stations in south Madagascar, making it nearly impossible to get a phone call through beyond two-hundred miles from the city.

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND SERVICES

9. By May 1954, Fort Dauphin should have its own power plant (diesel power) and distribution system in operation. Up to this time, residential and commercial interests relied upon individually-owned power plants for their power.
10. Water for the city of Fort Dauphin is piped in from a reservoir located in the mountains northwest of the city. The water is not treated, and the City Health Officer has recommended use of the water only after it has been boiled. Even water from private wells is not safe to drink. The water supply is not sufficient to meet year-around demands of the city, except during the wet season. During the dry season, the supply is cut off except for four or five hours each morning. The distribution of water by underground pipes is limited to the commercial area and government buildings. Natives and others who do not have their own water supply must collect the water from public fountains which are located throughout the city. There has been some talk during the past year about enlarging and improving the city's water supply, but no decision as far as I know has been reached.
11. Fort Dauphin has no fire fighting facilities, other than privately owned fire extinguishers. Neither does it have an ice manufacturing plant nor commercial refrigeration.
12. There are two Police Departments with headquarters in Fort Dauphin. One is the local Police Department and the other is the District Police Department. These are maintained by the Colonial Government which selects the department chiefs, who in each case are French citizens. Policemen working under the chiefs, are natives, some of whom I know are retired from the Colonial Army.

SCHOOLS AND ENTERTAINMENT

13. Fort Dauphin has three elementary schools, two of which are parochial, one Catholic and one Protestant (Lutheran), and the third a public school. The

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The public school enrolls students who are children of the government officials, children of other foreign parents, and some children of the upper-class natives. All schools are under the jurisdiction of the Education Department of the Colonial Department. The Malagasian language is used in the two parochial schools, and in the public school, the French language is used. A new high school is now being constructed in Fort Dauphin. The highest grade in the elementary school would compare with the 8th grade of schools in the US.

14. Fort Dauphin has an Athletic Field which is used as a parade grounds for the native Home-Guard Soldiers and the school children. The city also supports a soccer team which is composed of foreigners and natives. Inter-city contests are held with other soccer teams in the area.

#### INDUSTRIES

15. To the west and north of Fort Dauphin is the District's farming area, which furnishes work for most of the natives. Here is grown tapioca, sweet potatoes and rice, as well as garden vegetables. With weather conditions normal, these crops are sufficient to feed the people of the city and the District, and furnish some rice for export.
16. The production of sisal in the Mandrare River area west of Fort Dauphin is continuously on the increase, because of expanding cultivation and using modern methods and equipment. The sisal is then trucked to Fort Dauphin where most of it is exported; the rest is used in a modern rope-manufacturing plant, which has modern US machinery and employs 40 to 50 people throughout the year.
17. The shipping industry also employs a large segment of the population of the city and district of Fort Dauphin. These people work on the wharfs, in the warehouses, and operate the lighters.
18. Mica is brought in from the mines west of Fort Dauphin in its native form. Most of the mica is then distributed among the natives, who take it to their homes, split the mica, and then return it to the central location, where it is graded and exported.
19. Retail stores can be classified in three classes:
 

The first and highest class stores are those operated by the French; the second class are those stores owned and operated by the Chinese and Indians; and the third class stores are those owned and operated by the native Malagasians.

There are two wholesale stores operating in Fort Dauphin: One is owned by a Frenchman and the other by a Swiss. Both of these also do exporting and much of their trade with the natives is done on a barter basis. The commercial language in the District is French; and in the upper two classes of retail stores, clerks are hired who can speak both the native and French language.
20. About 30 miles north of Fort Dauphin, is a saw mill which operates throughout the year, employing about 30 natives.
21. In Fort Dauphin, there are three building contractors, who employ native workers. (The city of Fort Dauphin during the past three years, it is estimated, has increased its population by 15%). The newer buildings now being constructed in the commercial area are being built of cement blocks. A composition cement slab, similar to corrugated steel, is being used for the roofs.
22. Fort Dauphin and the area immediately south are becoming popular as a resort area. Many people of wealth from the cities in northern Madagascar, as well as government officials, are locating their summer homes in this area.

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MILITARY

23. A contonment in the northeastern part of the city houses 15 to 20 French officers and non-commissioned men; also, it houses from 50 to 100 native soldiers. A training area with new barracks is now being constructed in the northern part of the District; this will be for the local Home Guard soldiers.

[Available at Graphics Register for inspection and selection are the following five kodaslide taken of Fort Dauphin:

1. Picture taken from the City Square. Part of Fort Dauphin Bay can be seen to the left. The mountains in the rear are to the north of the city. Building is the office of the "Air France" airlines. CIA-122234
2. Picture taken from a hill in the south part of the city looking north. In the foreground is the Custom House, and to the right is the wharf. The city proper is to the left and to the rear. CIA-86243
3. Picture is taken looking southeast from the Custom House. Buildings on the hill are buildings of the City Hospital. CIA-122237
4. Picture is one of the three drug stores in the city. This building is typical of the stores that were built 20 to 25 years ago. CIA-122235
5. Picture of a retail, general merchandise store owned and operated by a Chinese, which faces the Market Place. Road in foreground is typical of one of the main streets of Fort Dauphin. CIA-122236

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